

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the indication that claims 1-7 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1 -7 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 have been amended. The drawings have been amended to delete reference numerals 3A and 3C from Fig. 1. The specification has been amended. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and remarks, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has noted that the trademark VASELINE appears in the specification. According to the Examiner, a trademark should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

In response to this observation, Applicant has revised the specification such that the word VASELINE™ is capitalized and is accompanied by the generic description. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 2 have been addressed by the amendments herein, with a view to each rejection raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendments, claim 1 has been amended to address each rejection set forth by the Examiner. Since claim 1 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter, as noted previously, Applicants submit that all claims of record in this application are allowable.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this would expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.A. Collins', written over a horizontal line.

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PENDING CLAIMS AS OF MAY 24, 2002

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1. (Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a main body including a liquid-pervious top sheet, a back sheet and an absorbent core sandwiched between the top sheet and the back sheet;

a layer containing a skin-protective ingredient; and

a support layer for covering an ingredient-containing layer, the ingredient-containing layer and the support layer being provided on a surface of the main body to be in contact with skin of a wearer, wherein;

the solubility in water of the support layer is promoted at 25°C or higher, and/or the moisture absorbability or the solubility in water of the support layer is promoted at a relative humidity of at least 30 %.

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2. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the support layer is formed of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyethylene oxide having a molecular weight of from 100 to 500,000, polypropylene glycol having a molecular weight of from 100 to 10,000, and polyvinyl alcohol having a degree of polymerization of from 300 to 4000 and a degree of saponification of from 50 to 99.

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3. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the layer containing a skin-protective ingredient is formed of a compound capable of forming an oily film on the skin of the wearer.

4. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the layer containing a skin-protective ingredient can be fluidized at 35°C or higher.

5. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the layer containing a skin-protective ingredient is formed of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of liquid polyisoprene, squalane, pristane, ozocerite, ceresine, microcrystalline wax, polyethylene powder, liquid paraffin, VASELINE™, and paraffin.

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6. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the two layers are located on the surface of the top sheet.

7. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, which further includes a leak-preventive cuff for preventing side leakage and/or a leg cuff for preventing leakage through the area around the wearer's thighs, and layer and support layer are located on a surface of the leak-preventive cuff and/or the leg cuff.

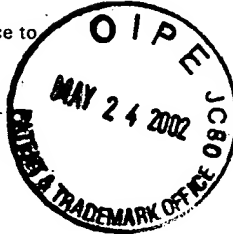
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07278

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 2309/01158

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Takayuki HISANAKA

Serial No.: 09/761,511

Confirmation No.: 5640

Filed: January 16, 2001

For: ABSORBENT ARTICLE CONTAINING SKIN-PROTECTIVE INGREDIENT

May 24, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

MARK-UP OF AMENDMENT OF MAY 24, 2002
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.121

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 11 of the specification, delete the second paragraph and insert the following new paragraph:

(7) Hydrocarbons:

Liquid polyisoprene, squalane, pristane, ozocerite, ceresine, microcrystalline wax, polyethylene powder, liquid paraffin, [vaseline] VASELINE™ (i.e., petroleum jelly), paraffin, etc.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to 1.121):

1. (Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a main body including a liquid-pervious top sheet, a back sheet and an absorbent core sandwiched between the top sheet and the back sheet;

a layer containing a skin-protective ingredient; and

a support layer for covering [the] an ingredient-containing layer, the ingredient-containing layer and the support layer being provided on [the] a surface of the main body to be in contact with [the] skin of a wearer, wherein;

the solubility in water of the support layer is promoted at 25°C or higher, and/or the moisture absorbability or the solubility in water of the support layer is promoted at a relative humidity of at least 30 %.

3. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the layer containing a skin-protective ingredient is formed of a compound capable of forming an oily film on the skin of [a] the wearer.

5. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the layer containing a skin-protective ingredient is formed of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of liquid polyisoprene, squalane, pristane, ozocerite, ceresine, microcrystalline wax, polyethylene powder, liquid paraffin, [vaseline] VASELINE™, and paraffin.

7. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, which further includes a leak-preventive cuff for preventing side leakage and/or a leg cuff for preventing leakage through the area around the wearer's thighs, and [the two layers] layer and support layer are located on [the] a surface of the leak-preventive cuff and/or the leg cuff.

Respectfully submitted,



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